

Office of Emergency Management

Emergency Management

Mission

In cooperation with internal and external partners, enhance public protective actions and promote domestic preparedness through a comprehensive and effective emergency management program that will adequately mitigate, prepare for, respond appropriately to and quickly recover from natural, technological and terrorist-related emergencies that may impact the residents of Fairfax County.

Focus

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides emergency management services for Fairfax County including the Towns of Herndon, Vienna, and Clifton. The major areas of focus include emergency management planning and policy; the countywide emergency training and exercise program; public preparedness and education; and enhancement of response and recovery capabilities. OEM is committed to preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating new and challenging threats, particularly including terrorism, disasters, and major emergencies. OEM coordinates emergency management activities with all Fairfax County agencies, as well as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, private organizations, and other local, state and federal agencies.

OEM provides vision, direction and subject matter expertise in the field of emergency management in order to heighten the County's state of emergency readiness. In the event of an emergency, OEM activates and manages the County's Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC). When activated, the AEOC becomes the command and coordination point for all County emergency management activities. Furthermore, the agency serves as the County's coordination point for federal disaster relief, recovery and mitigation programs. In addition, the agency acts as the liaison to County, regional, state, federal, volunteer, and private partners in order to prepare for, effectively respond to, and quickly recover from significant emergency events. These partnerships are enhanced through mutual aid and inter-local agreements. The current AEOC is located in the Government Center and became operational on September 13, 2004, replacing the old Emergency Operations Center located at the Pine Ridge Facility. The AEOC is equipped with the latest information management systems such as a Geographic Information System (GIS); WebEOC, an Emergency Operations Center information management system; emergency management records and information software; and an audio/visual system. The new Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC) will host a new emergency operations center and regional consolidated emergency communication center. Construction is anticipated to be completed in spring/summer 2008.

THINKING STRATEGICALLY

Strategic issues for the department include:


- Seeking to ensure consistency and continuity of emergency operations both vertically and horizontally throughout County government and the public safety community;
- Continuing to use technology to enhance service delivery and improve knowledge management; and
- Enhancing public safety and public safety awareness through partnering with the community and civic groups, businesses and the public.

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OEM develops, reviews and coordinates identified emergency management programs to meet the County's homeland security goals and objectives. OEM ensures County security and emergency plans are consistent and compatible with the regional and state emergency plan guidelines, as well as the County's Continuity of Operations Plan and emergency procedures and guidelines. OEM also develops and maintains the County's Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and provides emergency management planning for the entire County. The EOP guides strategic organizational behavior before, during, and following a significant emergency. In addition, the agency coordinates emergency training, simulations, and exercises necessary to prepare first responders to carry out their roles in the County EOP. In FY 2007, an amount of \$1,150,000 was included in Fund 303, County Construction, to begin to address on-going and projected County Emergency Planning Initiatives such as updating the County Emergency Operations Plan and the Regional Mitigation Plan, planning for public health outbreaks, updating business operations plans, and several other emergency planning efforts. Many of these initiatives will be supplemented by applied grant funding, however General Fund monies are required to continue both local and regional emergency planning efforts.

OEM also conducts public emergency management outreach programs necessary to increase awareness in emergency preparedness and homeland security. Through the Fairfax County Citizen Corps program, OEM manages recruitment, registration and identification of volunteer emergency workers necessary to support emergency response and recovery efforts. Moreover, OEM and the Office of Public Affairs notify emergency responders, County employees, private partners, and County residents in the event of a significant emergency that may affect the public's safety. Through the Watch Center program, OEM provides a 24/7 point of vigilance to enhance the emergency notification and alerting system. The Watch Center personnel monitor national, regional, and local events and when appropriate, provide notification to emergency responders, emergency partners, identified target groups (such as private schools, malls, and community groups), and the general public in the event of a major emergency.

New Initiatives and Recent Accomplishments in Support of the Fairfax County Vision

|  Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities | Recent Success | FY 2008 Initiative |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Fully implemented Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) in Fairfax County, greatly enhancing the ability to disseminate timely and important information to the public and Fairfax County employees. | ✓ | |
| Completed implementation of WebEOC, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) information management software system that provides improved data sharing and interoperability between the AEOC, County agencies, state, regional and federal operations centers and other identified locations that facilitates sharing of information during and following an emergency. "Resource typing" capabilities, or the use of common terminology to categorize and describe response resources, were added in FY 2007. | ✓ | |
| Coordinated efforts with numerous County, state, and federal agencies after the June 2006 rain event affecting the County, particularly in the Huntington area. OEM helped to facilitate community involvement as well as response and recovery efforts, including expedited permit requests and health and public safety measures for more than 100 impacted families. | ✓ | |
| Worked in collaboration with other County agencies to complete the Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Plan. | ✓ | |

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|  Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities | Recent Success | FY 2008 Initiative |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Work with contracted vendor to revise the County's Emergency Operations Plan, to be completed by June 2007. Additional planning documents to be amended and revised include the Terrorism Annex, Animal Protection Plan, Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the County's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). | ✓ | ✓ |
| Recertified as "Storm Ready" by the National Weather Service, signifying that Fairfax County has met certain criteria and has appropriate plans in place to handle all types of severe weather. Certification criteria included establishing a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center, having a system in place that monitors weather conditions locally, having a formal hazardous weather plan, and promoting the importance of public readiness. | ✓ | |
| Conduct training on incident management and emergency operations computer software for all County agencies involved in the operation of the AEOC, ensuring that emergency responders are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed in the event of an emergency activation of the facility. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Continue planning for the development and relocation to the Camp 30/West Ox Road site, which will house the new Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC). The PSTOC will house critical safety, transportation and security components of both County and state operations. | ✓ | ✓ |

Budget and Staff Resources

| Agency Summary | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Category | FY 2006 Actual | FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan | FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan | FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan | FY 2008 Adopted Budget Plan |
| Authorized Positions/Staff Years | | | | | |
| Regular | 14/ 14 | 14/ 14 | 15/ 15 | 15/ 15 | 15/ 15 |
| Expenditures: | | | | | |
| Personnel Services | \$486,431 | \$838,795 | \$1,206,249 | \$1,245,682 | \$1,245,682 |
| Operating Expenses | 276,563 | 608,114 | 552,820 | 676,345 | 676,345 |
| Total Expenditures | \$762,994 | \$1,446,909 | \$1,759,069 | \$1,922,027 | \$1,922,027 |

| Position Summary | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 Emergency Management Coordinator | 6 Security Analysts |
| 1 Deputy Coordinator of Emergency Management | 1 Administrative Assistant IV |
| 1 Management Analyst III | 4 Emergency Watch Officers |
| | 1 Information Officer II |
| TOTAL POSITIONS | |
| 15 Positions / 15.0 Staff Years | |
| 2/2.0 SYE Grant Positions in Fund 102, Federal/State Grant Fund | |

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FY 2008 Funding Adjustments

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2008 program:

- ◆ **Employee Compensation** **\$114,861**
An increase of \$114,861 in Personnel Services associated with salary adjustments necessary to support the County's compensation program.
- ◆ **Personnel Services Reduction** **(\$8,819)**
A decrease of \$8,819 in Personnel Services as part of an across-the-board reduction to meet budget limitations based on available revenues as a result of a flattening residential real estate market.
- ◆ **PC Replacement Program** **\$58,500**
An increase of \$58,500 in the PC Replacement Program based on the number of PCs scheduled to be replaced in FY 2008, according to the four-year replacement cycle.
- ◆ **Intergovernmental Charges** **\$9,731**
An increase of \$9,731 for Department of Vehicle Services charges is based on anticipated charges for fuel, vehicle replacement and maintenance costs.
- ◆ **Carryover Adjustments** **(\$11,315)**
A decrease of \$11,315 due to the carryover of one-time Operating Expenses as part of the FY 2006 Carryover Review.

Board of Supervisors' Adjustments

The following funding adjustments reflect all changes to the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 30, 2007:

- ◆ The Board of Supervisors made no adjustments to this agency.

Changes to FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan

The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes in the FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan since passage of the FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2006 Carryover Review and all other approved changes through December 31, 2006:

- ◆ **Position Adjustments** **\$0**
During FY 2007, the County Executive approved the redirection of 1/1.0 SYE position from the County's position pool to the Office of Emergency Management to establish 1/1.0 SYE Security Analyst to coordinate emergency planning efforts for the County's special needs populations. The position will work to coordinate the County's emergency preparedness efforts for persons with special needs and identified disabilities, including emergency transportation, sheltering, outreach projects, and pre-event registry.
- ◆ **Carryover Adjustments** **\$312,160**
As part of the FY 2006 Carryover Review, the Board of Supervisors approved carryover funding of \$312,160, including \$11,315 in encumbered funding for one-time Operating Expenses and \$300,845 in Personnel Services for salary costs associated with positions transferred to OEM in FY 2006 as part of a redirection of positions by the County Executive. These positions were transferred to OEM to fulfill emergency planning, coordination, and management functions.

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The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes to the FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan from January 1, 2007 through April 23, 2007. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2007 Third Quarter Review:

- ◆ The Board of Supervisors made no adjustments to this agency.

Key Performance Measures

Goal

To enhance public protective actions and promote domestic preparedness through a comprehensive and effective emergency management program that will adequately mitigate, prepare for, appropriately respond to and quickly recover from natural, technological and terrorist-related emergencies that may impact the residents of Fairfax County.

Objectives

- ◆ To participate with the 28 County, volunteer and partner agencies identified in the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) by providing access to emergency management-related training and exercise opportunities, thus increasing participation to 85 percent, working toward a target of 100 percent.
- ◆ To enhance public emergency notifications through effective use of the Community Emergency Alert Notification (CEAN) system by recruiting 2,500 additional subscribers within the next twelve months.

| Indicator | Prior Year Actuals | | | Current Estimate | Future Estimate |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | FY 2004 Actual | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Estimate/Actual | FY 2007 | FY 2008 |
| Output: | | | | | |
| Tabletop exercises conducted | 5 | 5 | 8 / 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Functional exercises/drills conducted | 1 | 1 | 2 / 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Community outreach preparedness presentations/programs conducted | 24 | 22 | 30 / 42 | 50 | 55 |
| Public outreach sessions on CEAN conducted | NA | NA | NA / 42 | 50 | 50 |
| Efficiency: | | | | | |
| Staff hours per community outreach presentation/program | 2 | 2 | 2 / 2 | 2 | 2 |
| New CEAN subscribers per outreach session conducted | NA | NA | NA / 15 | 30 | 30 |
| Service Quality: | | | | | |
| Percent of County and volunteer agencies satisfied with training received | 90% | 90% | 92% / 94% | 95% | 95% |
| Percent of CEAN users satisfied with information | NA | NA | NA / 98% | 98% | 98% |
| Outcome: | | | | | |
| Percent of County and volunteer agencies identified in EOP that received training | 46% | 75% | 75% / 75% | 80% | 85% |
| New CEAN subscribers added to OEM database | NA | NA | NA / 7,407 | 2,500 | 2,500 |

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Performance Measurement Results

In FY 2008, OEM will continue to conduct emergency preparedness tabletop exercises, functional exercises, drills and provide training opportunities for at least 85 percent of the County and volunteer agencies that are responsible for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from large-scale emergencies and disasters that impact Fairfax County. These County and volunteer agencies with duties and responsibilities outlined in the County Emergency Operation Plan will participate in AEOC functional drills designed to familiarize agency representatives with the new AEOC computer hardware, information software and procedures.

Community outreach preparedness presentations and programs will continue to be conducted on a request by request basis. The frequency of requests for presentations from the general public and civic groups are normally in direct correlation with heightened terrorist threat or potential or recent catastrophic events. In addition, a growing awareness in the community of OEM community outreach preparedness presentations and programs contributed to more outreach sessions conducted than estimated in FY 2006.

OEM added 7,407 CEAN subscribers in FY 2006. Subscribers were added as a result of OEM efforts such as conducting community presentations, including at the Celebrate Fairfax fair, working with local businesses to enroll their employees, and distributing literature and other publications to increase awareness. In FY 2008, OEM will continue to enhance public emergency notifications through effective use of the Community Emergency Alert Notification (CEAN) system by recruiting 2,500 additional subscribers within the next twelve months.